

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4679

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008

CASES OF THEFT AND LOOT IN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

Murmu Shri Hemlal;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft and loot etc. which have come to light in various financial institutions including Public & Private Sector Banks from August, 2007 till date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of arrangements in place to check such incidents;

(c) the number of such cases in which action has been taken against the accused persons along with the number of cases in which offences have not been proved during the last three years and current year; and

(d) the effective measures taken by the Government to check bank-loot cases, and provide security to the banks in sensitive areas and particularly in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) The state-wise details of crimes against banks which were reported by the banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from July, 2007 till date are given in the Annex.

(b),(c) and (d): RBI has reported that, though security arrangements at bank branches are primarily the responsibility of each bank, it has stipulated deployment of armed police guards in so far as currency chest branches are concerned. At Other branches and ATMs etc., the banks may devise their own arrangements, including deployment of modern security equipments, such as alarm system, CCTV collapsible door/shutters, night latches, grill gate to strong room, armoured cash vans and time- lock devices etc. RBI has further reported that security measures implemented by the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are reviewed in State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by the RBI. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the state and issues necessary instructions accordingly. As regards ensuring security to currency chests, instructions issued by the RBI, inter-alia, contain following measures:

(i) Currency chests to be guarded by State Armed Police.

(ii) Establishing hotlines with nearest Police Stations.

(iii) CCTV coverage of peripheral areas as well as of cash handling operations inside the chest areas in all currency chest branches.

(iv) Security inspection of currency chest branches located in sensitive areas/border areas at least once in a year, and once in two years in respect of other currency chest branches. Inspection to be conducted by the Chief/Zonal Security Officers of the bank concerned. The details regarding number of cases in which action is taken against the accused persons and the number of cases in which offences have not been proved is not maintained by the RBI.